



"**MY FRIENDS ARE UP THERE!**" Laurell Quinton, who escaped from a barroom fire in which 29 persons were reported killed Sunday night, screamed, "My friends are up there!" Quinton said he was with a group singing around a piano when the fire flashed around them in the second-story New Orleans French Quarter bar known as the Upstairs Lounge. (AP Wirephoto)

## Cocktail Lounge

# Fire Kills 29

**Fifteen Others Injured In  
New Orleans Tragedy**

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Most of the 29 persons killed when fire flashed through a second-story cocktail lounge in the French Quarter here were

trapped by burglar bars on three front windows, authorities said today.

Fifteen others were injured in the fire at The Up Stairs

Lounge, which was packed for the weekly Sunday night beer bust featuring all you can eat and drink for \$2.

A survivor said he believed somebody dashed an inflammable liquid on the stairway to the lounge and lit it.

Fire Supt. William McCrossen said homicide investigators and the state fire marshal would take a careful look at reports that "some people smelled gasoline just before the fire."

Some small persons managed to escape by squeezing through the burglar bars on the lounge's front windows and then leaping to the street. Others left the building by smashing a side window and climbed onto a fire escape. A few made their way to another fire escape in the rear.

The bodies of those who did not make it lay jammed like logs against the front windows, with four huddled under a charred grand piano.

Some of the injured apparently were hurt in jumping to the street.

Authorities said there was only one woman among the dead.

Fire headquarters is but three blocks away. Units were on the scene in two minutes, said Supt. William McCrossen. The fire was out 16 minutes later.

Adolph Medina, 32, of San Antonio, Tex., said flames engulfed the bar in a short, panic-ridden moment after fire broke out on the front stairway.

He said, "I was panicked about jumping, but two guys urged me to jump and I was small enough.... Some big guy on the ground caught me, and I kept looking back but my friend never got out."

Linn Quinton, 25, of Houston, Tex., said, "The place just went up. Everyone panicked and started running for the window."

(See page 17, column 6)

### Lake Temperature

The temperature of Lake Michigan at shoreline today is 60 degrees.

An autopsy failed to show an immediate cause in the deaths



**BLAZE AFTERMATH:** A victim is carried out of a New Orleans French Quarter barroom in which 29 were killed Sunday night by a flash fire. The body of another victim is seen in the window at upper left. (AP Wirephoto)

## Convicted Oliver Gets Stiffest Life Sentence

BY BRANDON BROWN

Staff Writer

Judge Chester J. Byrns of Berrien circuit court today sentenced Kenneth Eugene Oliver to the stiffest possible sentence—life in prison at hard labor, in solitary confinement, with recommendations he stay in maximum security and never be released.

Oliver, 33, of Detroit, was

convicted by Judge Byrns June 14 of first-degree murder of Niles post State Trooper Steven DeVries during flight from a \$38,000 Niles bank robbery Oct. 12, 1972.

The prosecution charged he pumped four pistol slugs into the trooper on US-12 bypass south of Niles minutes after taking two hostages and robbing a west Niles branch bank of

some \$38,000.

The judge issued his sentence in a brief 15-minute appearance starting at 9 a.m. today in Berrien circuit court, St. Joseph. Security was stringent, as it was during the seven-day trial, with one bailiff, two presence officers, seven Berrien sheriff's deputies and two state troopers present.

Oliver stood silently before the

Judge during sentencing.

Chief Deputy Donald Jewell of the sheriff's department said Oliver would be whisked to Southern Michigan Prison at Jackson as soon as possible.

The phrases "solitary confinement" and "hard labor" are statutory language and mean little, Berrien adult probation and parole authorities indicated. But the judge exercised his discretion when he recommended Oliver be considered for "maximum security" and never be released, they said.

A life sentence like Oliver's today is mandatory on first-degree murder convictions.

But Judge Byrns recommended to present and future governors and parole boards

(See page 17, column 1)



## Test Flight Delayed

Balloonist Bob Sparks (left) and his crew members scan skies while awaiting favorable weather conditions for flight across Lake Michigan from Evanston, Ill., to Muskegon. The flight originally was scheduled to take place Saturday but takeoff was postponed until 1:00 p.m. today because of wind conditions. With Sparks is Mark Semich, builder, designer and crewman of the balloon, and Cathy Wolff, Associated Press newswoman who will accompany the crew on the flight. Depending on wind direction that will determine the flight path, the balloon may be visible in the southwestern Michigan area. (AP Wirephoto)

## Dean Starts Talking About Nixon's Role

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ousted White House Counsel John W. Dean III admitted today he helped manage the Watergate cover-up, and said he reported what he was doing to President Nixon's two top aides.

Dean began his testimony before the Senate's televised Watergate investigation after making public a section of a lengthy opening statement on his role and knowledge of the wiretapping affair.

He said he didn't conduct the kind of investigation that President Nixon attributed to him in declaring last August that no one then employed by the administration was involved in the affair.

He said he would have advised the President, if Nixon had asked, not to deny administration involvement because he had told Nixon's two top aides, H. R. Haldeman and John D. Ehrlichman, about meetings in the office of Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell where wiretapping was first proposed.

The ousted White House counsel said an aide to Haldeman, Gordon Strachan, had brought fruits of wiretapped conversations into the White House, and that Haldeman had ordered them

destroyed.

Dean said he also suspected,

but couldn't prove, that former

presidential counselor Charles W. Colson knew more about the

wiretapping than he had admitted.

He said he would have advised

the President, if Nixon had

asked, not to deny administra-

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first proposed.

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SCENE OF TRAGEDY: This is house on County road 372, in Hartford township, Van Buren county, where father and daughter died apparently as result of faulty propane gas operated refrigerator.

Bodies of two were found about noon Saturday after neighbor checked house because he hadn't seen them for several days. (Staff photo)

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# THE HERALD-PRESS

## Editorial Page

W. J. Banyon, Editor and Publisher  
Bert Lindenfeld, Managing Editor

# What Makes Washington Tick, If At All...

Last week the Economic Club put on a bell ringer of a program in its more than 20 years of bringing in top flight outside talent to explain what is going on in the world.

Jack Anderson was the speaker.

He is the most widely read among all columnists excluding possibly those who deal in affairs of the heart.

Unquestionably he is the most controversial. Conservatives are convinced he is dedicated to bringing down the establishment in ruin. Most politicos are wary of what he is next going to report. Liberals are skeptical of his analytical dissection of the news.

Though on occasion we feel a polarity towards him, the fact that 950 of the country's 1,700 daily newspapers pay to carry his Washington Merry Go Round indicates he must have something on the ball.

And anyone who can speak for 90 or so minutes intelligibly and intelligently without referring to so much as a penciled note certainly understands his subject matter.

Anderson's talk centered entirely upon the Watergate caper, and as the reader might suspect, Nixon did emerge as a put-upon hero.

The President, in Anderson's opinion, bungled the situation from the time he learned of his implication and, in the speaker's view, appears intent upon riding it down if at all possible.

The columnist did point out two features in Watergate which are completely obscured in the endless reporting and speculation of who did what and of who said this or that to whom.

One is that frankness is not a highly regarded ingredient in government.

From the town hall on up to the White House, those in the driver's seat operate on the principle that what the public does not know will not hurt it. The corollary of the doctrine is "we know what's best for you."

Paraphrasing Anderson in this respect, the great majority of our officials, in big puddles or small ones, elected or appointed, are honest in their jobs and dedicated to doing a job, but very few are free from the virus of preferring to work in the shadows.

The long coverup in Watergate stems from this mistaken belief that nobody was stealing the taxpayers' money nor betraying the country, but merely indulging in time honored political shenanigans.

The second point made by Anderson is what led Nixon's close advisors to go off the deep end.

Nixon went into office determined to accomplish what Eisenhower and

Kennedy complained of constantly during their White House residences.

It is the sprawling federal bureaucracy.

In theory it is subject to the President's command and direction. It is part of his apparatus to administer the government.

Even before FDR and the New Deal vastly expanded the bureaucracy in the 1930s its component parts already were pretty much going their separate paths.

They are so entrenched today as to be immune from any semblance of the control that a drill sergeant exerts over a platoon.

Having spent eight years under Eisenhower, Nixon saw at first hand the futility of a frontal assault in making the bureaucracy more responsive.

He infiltrated its major members with his own palace guard.

Watergate, in Anderson's opinion, was a natural consequence of men succeeding in that endeavor deciding to apply the same karate to a political opponent.

Though Anderson did not specifically name their target, it is a reasonable hunch that the President's close advisors were gunning for Larry O'Brien, who after some shaky starts with McGovern's pre-convention managers, took over his Presidential campaign.

Nobody particularly worried about the South Dakota Senator or his bodyguards, but O'Brien's astuteness was admitted.

Neutralize him and the McGovern campaign would lose whatever dim chance it might have, was the strategy.

Only the bureaucrats and special interests in close touch with them would fault the idea of cutting the former to a proper dimension.

However, as Anderson made clear, it is easy for the exhilaration behind a good motive to induce the intoxication prompting the commission of foolish or even base ones.

The speaker, however, sees a silver lining in the cloud.

Congress, he believes, will reassume some of its authority it gave away by default, starting in the New Deal era, and the next President, he thinks, will be as pure as the driven snow.

We regret the oversight in failing to ask Jack upon finishing his formal message if he sees the bureaucracy functioning in a more coherent, responsive manner.

# A Touchy Subject

To cut the Michigan highway speed limit—or not to cut it?

That is the question which several interests in Lansing are trying to bury these days.

A reduction was proposed as one means of saving gasoline to help ease the nation's fuel shortage. It sounds simple because dropping speed from 70 to 50 miles per hour is supposed to save at least 10 per cent gasoline consumption, perhaps as much as 20.

But when the issue is screened through politics and business, it gets a whole lot more complicated.

Gov. William Milliken has asked the state Senate "for political reasons" not to take up a bill which calls for giving the governor power to cut the

speed limits 10 miles an hour. Sen. Robert Vanderland, Kentwood Republican who introduced the measure three weeks ago, says Milliken is politically afraid of the bill.

"He's wary that it could make more enemies for him than friends," Vanderland told the Detroit News." He doesn't want to be put in a position that gets him out on a limb."

Well, that makes good sense politically. The Automobile Club of Michigan (AAA) is against a speed cut, and they're an influential outfit. Gasoline dealers and tourist folks probably wouldn't like it. Maybe not even workers in the state's automobile plants. And a good many zippy motorists certainly wouldn't.

As a practical matter, a speed reduction might not be as good as it sounds. AAA says 70 per cent of miles driven in Michigan are on roads with speed limits of 60 miles or less. So gasoline conservation might not be all that great.

Moreover, slower speeds might produce "worse bumper-to-bumper traffic" than now exists at peak traffic periods. Motorists then certainly would be mad not only at the governor, but at each other.

Furthermore, it would cost \$100,000 or more to put temporary covers over speed limit signs to denote the reduction in speed.

So what's the outlook? Sen. Vanderland says the bill will probably be kept in the GOP-controlled Highways Committee. And there won't be any reduction in speed limits unless there's a really dire national emergency.

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# The Ice Man Cometh



Bruce Biossat

## Is It Time For The Governors?



WASHINGTON (NEA) — The outlook for governors may be changing. For perhaps too long now, they have seemed bland, sometimes dispirited, ill-equipped to deal with problems beyond their own state borders.

Their image has suffered further because, even when many individuals stood out as impressive performers, collectively they seldom managed to exert much influence upon the course of the nation's affairs. Assembled together, they appeared almost certain to give off group vibrations of weakness.

At their early June meeting at Lake Tahoe, they did not suddenly come smashing through as a great collective force. But they looked and sounded better than they had for a long time.

Maybe it's all relative. Maybe this was an impression gained only by comparison with the mess in Washington. Yet many seasoned newsmen felt this and are undoubtedly writing about it.

The old stuff about the governors being less than the sum of their parts seemed inappropriate. Probably it was always basically unfair as a judgment, since the idea that they were capable of exerting heavy combined impact was largely an illusion, born of the impressive if little understood act by GOP governors in 1952 in support of Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's presidential candidacy.

In 1973, anyway, the legend of unified influence smacked of irrelevancy. Their individual capacities, strength of utterance, and seriousness struck observers as more important.

Very strong statements about

Watergate came from such governors as Daniel Evans of Washington, William Milliken of Michigan, Patrick Lucey of Wisconsin, John Gilligan of Ohio. Gov. Nelson Rockefeller cut his usual good figure as a bustling executive of competence and energy.

Moreover, it began to dawn on some of the watchers that perhaps it is time again for one of the governors to get a real crack at the presidency. The nongovernors who have been winning that job in recent times haven't done all that well in some critical areas of national difficulty.

The tough problem zones today are in the domestic sphere — homegrown inflation, stubborn unemployment in the cores of the great cities, crime and blight and transportation chaos (underscored now by fuel shortages) in those same cities.

This is the sphere where the governors live. They stand at the cutting edge of the big, nagging problems which have been resisting solution, or even modest amelioration, by presidents who, either by choice or force of circumstance, have for years been focusing heavily upon foreign policy matters.

A feeling was evident at Tahoe that the long drawn out foreign policy era is over, that the sting of urgency has gone out of the foreign issues, that what we need now are men close to domestic matters.

President Nixon is seen by men in both parties as not only beleaguered by the scandals of Watergate, but positively strapped by his known bent for the strategic abstractions of overseas diplomacy.

Marianne Meeks

## Ted Will Watch 1974 Election



## EDITOR'S MAILBAG

### 'DAMN FINE NEWSPAPER,' SAYS THE JUDGE

Editor,

As a subscriber to your newspaper I, of course, followed with interest your paper's accounts of the donnybrook between the South Haven Dog Warden and myself. I, of course, was aware of Mrs. Aviles' last letter to your paper prior to the time it was published.

I have watched and listened to the proceedings of your committee with interest and in the main I feel your proceedings have been an honest effort to bring out the truth concerning Watergate; however I, and others in my area I have had exchanges with, feel you have allowed an unforgivable compromise in the integrity of your committee by allowing leaks of the outcome of your closed session on Monday with Dean.

In all candor I must admit, because of the content of the letter, that I fully expected you would simply print it in the letters to the editor column. I must admit I was pleasantly surprised when I observed the treatment in last night's paper.

I wasn't at the Council Meeting so I don't know exactly what was said, or whether Mrs. Aviles was misquoted, however treating her latest letter as a news item and giving it prominent display, is proof to me of your policy of responsible journalism. I know that it would have been easy to "bury this item" and I congratulate you for your courageous handling of it.

I have known and worked with Tom Renner for several years and in my opinion he is an outstanding reporter. I have never had reason to doubt his objectivity and accuracy and am sure if Mrs. Aviles was misquoted it was unintentional. Tom has written many articles on things I have been involved in both as Prosecuting Attorney and Judge and if he did make a mistake this time it's the first time it's happened.

You had faithfully agreed to have a moratorium of your committee hearings during the state visit of the Russians. I think this was a very good decision as I certainly do not feel the office of the Chief Executive of our nation should in any way be embarrassed by reports of any committee during visits of state by foreign nationals.

Contrary, however, to the agreement not to convene your committee in open session, you did manage to have leaked to the news media proceedings of your closed session with Dean which have been in the papers, on radio and TV. This, in my opinion, is worse than if you had proceeded with your committee operation without the week moratorium because, at least, through interrogation by your committee the uncontested allegations now being released would have had some challenge in the interest of bringing out the real truth.

In any case I guess the whole matter has been settled in a friendly fashion and hopefully the dog problem in South Haven will be improved because of it.

Your editorial about the whole situation was also appreciated and very frankly gave me and my wife quite a chuckle when we read it. At the time you ran the editorial I was quite upset and frankly by Mrs. Aviles' charges and that bit of writing helped put things in their perspective. You publish a damn fine newspaper and I'm happy to be a subscriber to same.

Donald M. Goodwillie, Jr.  
Seventh District Judge  
South Haven

### OBJECTS TO COMMITTEE LEAKS

Editor,

Letter to Sen. Samuel Ervin, Chairman, Senate Select Committee:

Dear Senator Ervin:

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Donald M. Goodwillie, Jr.  
Seventh District Judge  
South Haven

### CHIEF CONDUCTS TOUR

— 49 Years Ago —

A "personally conducted" tour of hoboes from St. Joseph into the heart of bloomland has been made by Police Chief Fred Alden, who loaded 45 of the wandering gentry into a big truck.

### HOBO BATH

— 53 Years Ago —

A hobo of the drone-booze type, enraged because he had been stopped from going bathing clad only in his birthday suit, attacked Patrolman David Hunter with a pocket knife. He is now spending 30 days in jail.

### PLANK'S TAVERN

— 53 Years Ago —

Several workmen are improving the grounds around Plank's Tavern. The shade trees set out there last year are growing nicely.

### BERRY'S WORLD

— 53 Years Ago —

On second thought, I don't think I want to teach you the value of a dollar. It's too distressing!

WASHINGTON — Sen. Edward Kennedy changed the course of 1976 Presidential politics last week by abruptly announcing that he would reveal shortly after the 1974 Congressional election whether or not he would seek the White House



# THE HERALD-PRESS

ST. JOSEPH, MICH. MONDAY, JUNE 25, 1973

Area  
Highlights

## Two Contestants Hospitalized

# Five Hurt In Cycle Races

BUCHANAN — Five persons were injured during motorcycle races at Redbud Track and Trails near here yesterday afternoon.

Contestants treated and admitted to hospitals were: Harold F. Lew, 23, Syracuse, Ind., fractured left leg, satisfactory condition at Memorial hospital, South Bend, Ind., and Ronnie K. Miller, 20, Elkhart,

Ind., head injuries, fairly good condition at Pawating hospital, Niles.

Treated at Pawating hospital and released were Michael T. Brennan, 14, Lansing, Ill.; Jack T. Mennewisch, 26, Fort Wayne, Ind.; and Randall J. Gudmundson, 19, Ceder Lake, Ind.

State police at Niles said the accidents occurred in

crashes between motorcycles or when the rider lost control of his machine during races sponsored by 7-11 Competition club, Chesterton, Ind.

In an unrelated accident, George T. Prior, 22, South Bend, Ind., was treated at Pawating hospital for a collar bone fracture after he lost control of his motorcycle while riding on terminal grounds near Niles yesterday, said police.



MISS MICHIGAN WINNERS: Sherry Lee Agnello, 19, left, was named Miss Michigan of 1973, in Muskegon Saturday night while Laura Dean Mansfield, right, of Benton Harbor, was named third runner-up. Miss Mansfield, 20, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Mansfield, is to receive \$500 scholarship in addition to runner-up title. New queen, Miss Agnello, is 5 feet 6, has light brown hair, blue eyes and measures 35-24-35½. She will



represent state in Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, N.J., in September. First runner-up in contest was Carleen Dianne Mlynarek, of Kalamazoo area while second runner-up was Carol Lynn Flynn, a junior at Central Michigan university who also won Miss Congeniality award. Fifth runner-up was Renae Louise Kalawart, a junior at Western Michigan university.

## Six Children Are Among Eight Injured In Crash

BUCHANAN — Eight persons, including six children, were injured Saturday afternoon, when a car went out of control and slammed broadside against a large tree near Clear lake, just west of here.

Four of the injured were trapped in the auto for more than an hour, and were hospitalized with serious injuries.

Police and firemen from nine units, extending from Benton Township to South Bend, participated in the long effort to free the trapped persons and in keeping back the big crowd that gathered at the scene.

Berrien Sheriff's Deputies Richard Heminger and Larry Castro said the accident was reported at 2:50 p.m., and occurred on Clear Lake Woods road, a quarter-mile north of Elm Valley road, Buchanan township.

The driver of the car was identified as Monte Warren

Lott, 18, Galien-Buchanan road, Route 2, Buchanan. He was treated for cuts and abrasions at Buchanan Community hospital and released.

Officers said the six children all were riding in the back seat of the two-door auto.

Admitted to Niles Pawating hospital were, Danny Lott, 12, of Galien-Buchanan road, who underwent surgery for fractures of the lower legs and feet; Randy G. Rzanea, 11, Walton road, Route 1, Buchanan, who underwent surgery of the lower legs and feet, and sustained neck injuries; and Monica S. Jones, 10, also of Box 145 Walton road, who received leg and hip fractures.

All were reported variously in from fair to good condition at the hospital this morning.

These were trapped in the car, along with a passenger in the front seat, Debra Ann Lott, 19, of Galien-Buchanan road, who was admitted to Pawating

hospital with head lacerations and multiple bruises. She was reported in good condition today.

Escaping with lesser injuries were Charles C. Davis, 9, and Francis G. Davis, 8, both of Box 145, Walton road, who were treated and released from Pawating hospital; and Wanda Lott, 4, of Galien-Buchanan road, who was examined and released from the Niles hospital.

Deputies said the car was traveling south on Clear Lake Woods road, apparently at a high rate of speed. Officers stated that the car skidded sideways and struck the tree broadside. The car was wrapped around the tree, officers reported. Clear Lake Woods road at the crash location is posted for a 25 mile-an-hour speed limit, officers noted.

Assisting deputies were Buchanan township firemen; rescue units from Niles township, Niles city, and South Bend, Ind.; and police from Buchanan city; Berrien Springs-Oronoko township department; Niles township, and the Niles state police post.

Added police were needed to direct traffic because of the large crowd of on-lookers from area homes, it was reported.

Deputies said hydraulic jacks needed to free the trapped victims, were supplied by Benton township fire department. Township Fireman Frank Scorna, Jr., and Township Paramedic Jack Root assisted with the jacks.

While efforts were underway to free the victims, a Buchanan physician, Dr. D. Kent Hasson,

provided emergency treatment. The officers said the children in the back were trapped between the drive shaft hump and the right side of the car. The woman in front was trapped, when the seat was propelled forward and the door pushed in. Deputies said her legs were trapped under the dash board, while her head was pushed outward, through the windshield.

The officers noted in their report that Lott was driving while his license was "suspended, denied, or revoked." A report of the accident will be sent to the Berrien county prosecutor's office for review, the officers stated.

## Court Nixes Parochiaid Tax Credits

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court today rejected tax deductions and tuition reimbursement for parents of non-public school students in the latest round of a continuing legal battle over state aid to private and parochial education.

### Ground Broken

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Ground was broken Sunday for a new \$36 million, 556-bed medical center to serve the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti areas.



TRAPPED: Niles township firemen use portable rescue equipment to free Debra Lott, 19, Buchanan, right, trapped in front seat, and three young children also trapped when this car crashed

broadside into tree near Clear lake, Buchanan township, Saturday afternoon. Firemen from several departments worked more than an hour to free victims. (Staff photo)

## LMC, Andrews Get U.S. Funds For Student Loans

Congressman Edward Hutchinson of St. Joseph has announced that Lake Michigan college and Andrews university in Berrien county will share in National Direct Student Loan funds for the coming school year.

The Department of Health Education and Welfare has earmarked \$5,059 for LMC and

\$48,768 for Andrews. Hutchinson said the funds will provide 90 per cent of student loans for 11 LMC and 108 Andrews students. The schools themselves will provide the other 10 per cent.

HEDW has allocated loan funds for 2,563 higher education facilities for 1973-74.

## Southwest Michigan

### Cassopolis Girl

## Is Black Queen

BY CURT BARTON

Staff Writer

CASSOPOLIS — Gretchen Grady, 17, Cassopolis, was named Miss Black Southwestern Michigan 1973 at Cassopolis high school Saturday night.

A crowd estimated by contest officials at 500 people filled the school gym to watch the competition, the second annual Miss Black Southwestern Michigan contest.

Miss Grady is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Grady, of 519 South O'Keefe street. She is a former student at Cassopolis high school, but graduated from Baker high school, Columbus, Ga., this year.

She is 5 feet 3, and wore a floor length, high-waisted dress of peach velure in the contest's evening gown competition. Her favorite activities include playing tennis, swimming and bowling.

She plans to attend Southwest Michigan college, Dowagiac, this fall.

First runner-up in the contest was Betty Collins, 20, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Collins, of 106 South O'Keefe street, Cassopolis. She was also selected by Las Negras Bonitas, Cassopolis women's club, to receive the Miss Soul award. A 1971 graduate of Cassopolis high school, she is a student at Southwest Michigan college.

Second runner-up was Wenona Aaron, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Bennett, of Three Rivers. She will graduate from Three Rivers high school next year.

Other finalists were Linda Davis, Joan Miller and Gloria Smith, all of Niles.

Judges of the contest were Leon Nelson, vice-president of the Chicago Daily Defender; Dr. Edward Parham, cardiology department administrator, Borgess hospital, Kalamazoo; Don Nash, Coca-Cola executive, Chicago; and Lafayette David Jr., graduate student at Western Michigan university, Kalamazoo.

Master of ceremonies was Rod Johnson, host of "The Afternoon Show" and weatherman on WSBT-TV, South Bend.

The contest was sponsored by the Sportsmen's Big 10 club, a men's social and civic organization, of Cassopolis.

Chairman of the event was Mrs. Joann Bethea, of Cassopolis.

Contestants included Ava Bacon, of Dowagiac; Pearl Blakely, Decatur; Yvonne Bland, Vandalia; Joyce Douglas, Dowagiac; Elizabeth King, Benton Harbor; Gayle Stone, Bangor; and Mae Wilborn, Covert.

Miss Black Southwestern Michigan will represent the area in the Miss Black Michigan pageant, to be held at the Latin Quarter, Detroit, July 22.